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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
CD NO.

STAT

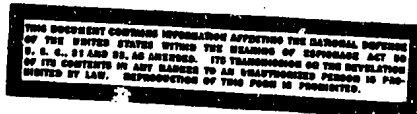
COUNTRY Hungary
SUBJECT Economic - Fuels, petroleum
HOW PUBLISHED Daily, irregular newspapers
WHERE PUBLISHED Hamburg; Budapest
DATE PUBLISHED 16 Mar 1950, 5 Jan 1952
LANGUAGE German; Hungarian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950, 1952

DATE DIST. 16 Apr 1952

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.



THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

SAYS HUNGARIAN OIL WELL NEAR EXHAUSTION
AS RESULT OF GERMAN, SOVIET EXPLOITATION

SEES INCREASE IN PRODUCTION ONLY WITH NEW DISCOVERIES -- Hamburg, Hamburgisches Welt-Wirtschafts-Archiv, undated [information based on data from Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 16 Mar 50]

The ruthless exploitation of Hungary's petroleum resources by the Germans resulted in a decrease in petroleum production.

According to figures issued by the National Planning Office, production again started to increase in 1949, exceeding 1948 figures by 3.6 percent and amounting to 11.7 times the 1938 output. However, the fact remains that even in 1949 petroleum production lagged considerably behind results achieved in previous years. On the basis of recently released figures, production was 484,000 tons for 1948 and 503,000 tons for 1949, while in 1947 production had been 570,000 tons and, shortly before the retreat of the German troops close to one million tons.

The following table shows petroleum production figures for Hungary since the end of World War II. For comparison, figures for 1938 and 1943 -- the year of highest productivity -- are also given.

Hungarian Petroleum Production
(in 1,000 tons)

1938	43	1947	570
1943	839	1948	487
1945	655	1949	503
1946	685		

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Soviet occupation authorities and the Hungarian government continued to apply uneconomical exploitation methods, even though during the German occupation the fields had been overtaxed and the installations needed overhauling. Consequently, the old wells are gradually approaching exhaustion. The latest production increase is probably due to new wells. However, the productivity of these wells does not seem to be up to the expectations of the Hungarian government. In the future, an appreciable increase in Hungarian petroleum production can be achieved only if new and richer fields are discovered and developed.

ANNOUNCE PRICES FOR VARIOUS GASES -- Budapest, Tervgazdasagi Ertesito,
5 Jan 52

Decree No 500,002/1952 of the president of the National Planning Office lists prices for liquid gas, natural gas, and propane-butane delivered by pipeline or in containers for other than household consumption. The decree went into effect on 1 January 1952.

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